



Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery Summit

Friday, September 18, 2026

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

UAB MEDICINE | Surgery

AJS The
American
Journal of
Surgery



Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery Summit

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The *American Journal of Surgery (AJS)* is hosting a summit called “Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery” on Friday, September 18, 2026, on the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The summit will convene experts from around the world to debate and publish reviews in *AJS* on three emerging topics in endocrine surgery.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Practicing surgeons, APPs, and trainees are encouraged to attend to learn more about updates in the field of endocrine surgery, connect with peers, and collaborate on the best practices in endocrine surgery.

LOCATION

The one-day symposium will take place at the new, state-of-the-art UAB Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center of the Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine & Data (ALGEN) Building, which is located in the medical campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Nestled in the heart of downtown Birmingham, AL, UAB is near 5-star dining, Civil Rights museums, urban parks and plenty of breweries. Partner hotels include the **UAB Hilton** and the **Valley Hotel**, in nearby Homewood, AL.

Summit Location Address: 701 19th Street South, Birmingham AL 35233

Staff will be at the front doors, across the street from the UAB School of Dentistry, to let you in and guide you to the meeting location.



REGISTER TODAY!

FEATURED SESSION TOPICS

- Preventing and Treating Hypoparathyroidism After Surgery
- Ablative Techniques for Thyroid Cancer
- Surgery for Mild Autonomous Cortisol Secretion
- Interesting Case Session
- ... And many more opportunities to network and learn!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration includes:

- Embedded networking opportunities
- Lunch provided
- Opportunities for publication in *AJS*

Registration Fee:

- APPs, Trainees, and Practicing Endocrine Surgeons: \$25 / Attendee

Seats are limited - register today!



Register here:



INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN EXHIBITOR?

Levels of support:

- **\$2500** - Exhibit at a table during summit
- **\$5000 Gold Sponsorship** - Table display, plus dinner at one of two summit dinners with faculty
- **\$7500 Platinum Sponsor** - Table display, plus **sole participant** at a faculty summit dinner

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

*If a registrant is unable to attend, they may request a refund up to 30 days before the start of the course. Cancellation requests must be in writing and submitted to surgcomm@uabmc.edu. No refunds will be issued after **Saturday, Sep. 12, 2026.***

COURSE AGENDA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
UAB Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center, ALGEN Building

- 7-7:50 a.m. Check In**
- 7:50-8 a.m. Introductions by Summit Co-Leaders Drs. Herbert Chen and Tracy Wang**
- 8-9:45 a.m. Session 1: Preventing and Treating Hypoparathyroidism After Surgery**
Co-Leaders: Kepal Patel and Dave Schneider
Faculty: Paul Gauger, Sarah Oltmann, Elizabeth Cottrill, Carmen Solorzano, Peter Abraham, Basma S. Abdulhadi, Susie Pitt, Adwoa S. Opoku-Boateng, Alex Papachristos
- Session 1a: Definition, Preoperative Preparation, Intraoperative Adjuncts**
Preoperative Preparation (10 min) - Sarah Oltmann
Autotransplantation (10 min) - Alex Papachristos
Intraoperative Adjuncts (10 min) - Elizabeth Cottrill
Panel Discussion (20 min) - Paul Gauger
AJS Manuscript - Peter Abraham
- Session 1b: Diagnosis, Immediate and Long-Term Management**
Definition & Diagnosis (10 min) - Susan Pitt
Immediate Treatment (10 min) - Adwoa Opoku-Boateng
Long Term Management (10 min) - Basma Abdulhadi
Panel Discussion (25 min) - Carmen Solorzano
AJS Manuscript - Peter Abraham
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Break**

COURSE AGENDA

10:15 a.m.-noon **Session 2: Ablative Techniques for the Thyroid**
Co-Leaders: Sophie Dream and Jennifer Kuo
Faculty: Ralph Tufano, Claire Graves, Jesse Pasternak, Erivelto Volpi, Anne Weaver, Alexander S. Chiu, Jessica Fazendin, Salem Noureldine

Session 2a: Ablative Techniques for Thyroid Cancer

Thermal Ablation of Papillary Thyroid Microcancers (8 min.) - Erivelto Volpi
Thermal Ablation of Lymph Node Metastases (8 min.) - Claire Graves
Panel Discussion (14 min.) - Anne Weaver, Senior Author: Erivelto Volpi
AJS Manuscript - First Author(s): Claire Graves, Anne Weaver

Session 2b: Ablative Techniques for Indeterminate Nodules

Updates in Molecular Testing (8 min) - Jesse Pasternak
Thermal Ablation of Indeterminate Nodules (8 min) - Alexander S. Chiu
Panel Discussion (14 min) - Jennifer Kuo, Senior Author: Jennifer Kuo
AJS Manuscript - First Authors: Jesse Pasternak, Alexander Chiu

Session 2c: Best Practice Recommendations

Peri-procedural Considerations (8 min) - Ralph Tufano
Data Collection and Follow-up (8 min)
Panel Discussion (25 min) - Jessica Fazendin, Salem Noureldine,
Senior Author: Ralph Tufano
AJS Manuscript - First Authors: Jessica Fazendin, Salem Noureldine

noon-1 p.m. **Lunch and Conversations with Sponsors**

COURSE AGENDA

1-2:45 p.m.

Session 3: Surgery for Mild Autonomous Cortisol Secretion

Co-Leaders: Brenessa Lindeman and Catherine McManus

Faculty: Heather Wachtel, James Lee, Corbin Frye, Jessica McMullin, Wen T. Shen, Danica M. Vodopivec, Lindsay Kuo, Kimberly M. Ramonell

Session 3a: Diagnosis & Surgical Indications

Definition & Diagnosis (10 min) - Jessica McMullin

Surgical Indications (10 min) - Lindsay Kuo

Preoperative Considerations (medical alternatives, vein sampling) (10 min) - Corbin Frye

Panel Discussion (20 min) - James Lee

AJS Manuscript - Jessica McMullin, Senior Author: Catherine McManus

Session 3b: Surgical Approach, Perioperative Steroids, Long Term Outcomes

Surgical approach to the adrenal (10 min) - Heather Wachtel

Management of perioperative steroids (10 min) - Kimberly Ramonell

Long Term Outcomes (10 min) - Danica M Vodopivec

Panel Discussion (25 min) - Wen T Shen

AJS Manuscript - Kimberly Ramonell, Senior Author: Brenessa Lindeman

2:45-3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15-4:30 p.m.

Session 4: Interesting Cases Highlighting Innovation

Co-Leaders: Insoo Suh and Andrea Gillis

Faculty Judges: Kristin Long, Sareh Parangi, Jacob Moalem, Daniel Rocke

COURSE FACULTY



Herbert Chen, MD, FACS, FRACS - Summit Co-Leader

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Chair, Department of Surgery
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Fay Fletcher Kerner Endowed Chair
Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, and Biomedical Engineering
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Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Surgery*
President, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons Foundation
Past-President, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



Tracy Wang, MD, MPH, FACS - Summit Co-Leader

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Associate Editor, *American Journal of Surgery*



Peter Abraham, MD, MSPH

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Endocrine Surgery Identify Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



Basma Abdulhadi, MD, CCD

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Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Director of Bone Densitometry
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COURSE FACULTY



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Surgical Director, Jefferson Thyroid & Parathyroid Center
Past Program Chair, American Thyroid Association
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Paul G. Gauger, MD, FACS

University of Michigan
Norman W. Thompson Professor of Surgery
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Andrea Gillis, MD, MSPH, FACS

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Co-Director Pre-College Research Internship for Scholarship and Mentoring (PRISM)

COURSE FACULTY



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Victoria Lai, MD, FACS

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James Lee, MD, FACS

Columbia University
Edwin K. and Anne C. Weiskopf Professor of Surgery and Surgical Oncology
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Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP, FACS

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, and Medical Education
Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Director and Vice Chair of Education
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Education Task Force Co-Chair, American Association for Endocrine Surgeons
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COURSE FACULTY



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Associate Program Director, Endocrine Surgery Fellowship



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Jacob Moalem, MD, FACS

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AAES Liaison to American College of Surgeons Board of Governors



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Adwoa Opoku-Boateng, MD, FACS

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Alex Papachristos, MD, FRACS

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Senior Lecturer

COURSE FACULTY



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Past Chair Research Committee, American Thyroid Association
Fellowship Committee & Research Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons
Program Committee, North American Society of Interventional Thyroidology
Associate Editor, *Canadian Journal of Surgery*



Kepal N. Patel, MD, FACS

New York University
Professor of Surgery, Biochemistry & Molecular Pharmacology, and Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
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COURSE FACULTY



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Wen T. Shen, MD, MA

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